

Amendment and Response
Applicants: Rudy Mazzocchi et al.
Serial No.: 10/051,591

Attorney Docket: MVA1001USC4

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1 (Original). A device for filtering fluid flowing through a lumen defined by the wall of an anatomical structure comprising:

a guidewire; and

a filter element mounted on the guidewire, the filter element having proximal and distal ends and being expandable from a collapsed configuration when the filter element is restrained to an expanded configuration when the filter element is unrestrained, the filter element having a shape in the expanded configuration which defines a cavity having a proximally facing opening, the guidewire extending to at least the distal end of the filter element.

2 (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein the filter element is self-expandable.

3 (Original). The device of claim 1 further comprising means for expanding the filter element from the collapsed configuration to the expanded configuration.

4 (Original). The device of claim 3 wherein the means for expanding comprises the filter element being comprised of nitinol.

Amendment and Response
Applicants: Rudy Mazzocchi et al.
Serial No.: 10/051,591

Attorney Docket: MVA1001USC4

5 (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein the filter element is attached to the guidewire at a distal region of the guidewire.

6 (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein the distal end of the filter element is connected to a distal band which encircles the guidewire.

7 (Original). The device of claim 6 wherein the distal band is connected in a fixed position on the guidewire.

8 (Original). The device of claim 6 wherein the proximal end of the filter element is connected to a proximal band which encircles the guidewire.

9 (Original). The device of claim 8 wherein one of the proximal and distal bands is connected in a fixed position on the guidewire.

10 (Original). The device of claim 8 wherein the proximal band is slidably disposed about the guidewire.

11 (Original). The device of claim 8 wherein when the filter element is in the collapsed configuration the distal and proximal bands are spaced apart a first distance and when the filter element is in the expanded configuration the proximal and distal bands are spaced apart a second distance, the first distance being greater than the second distance.

12 (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein when the filter element is in the expanded configuration a proximal portion of the filter element is of sufficient size and shape to engage the wall of the vessel.

Amendment and Response
Applicants: Rudy Mazzocchi et al.
Serial No.: 10/051,591

Attorney Docket: MVA1001USC4

13 (Original). The device of claim 12 wherein the filter element has a shape in the expanded configuration which decreases in size from the proximal portion to the distal end of the filter element.

14 (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein the filter element comprises a metal mesh.

15 (Original). The device of claim 14 wherein the filter element comprises nitinol.

16 (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein the guidewire includes a flexible portion extending distally of the distal end of the filter element.

17 (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein the guidewire comprises a solid material.

18 (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein the guidewire comprises metal.

19 (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein the guidewire comprises a tapered portion.

Claims 20 – 39 (Canceled).

Amendment and Response
Applicants: Rudy Mazzocchi et al.
Serial No.: 10/051,591

Attorney Docket: MVA1001USC4

40 (Currently Amended). A method of filtering fluid flowing through a lumen defined by the wall of an anatomical structure comprising:

providing a guidewire including a filter element mounted on a distal portion of the guidewire, the filter element having a distal end and being expandable from a collapsed configuration when the filter element is restrained to an expanded configuration when the filter element is unrestrained, the filter element having a shape in the expanded configuration which defines a cavity having a proximally facing opening, the guidewire extending to at least the distal end of the filter element;

introducing the guidewire into the lumen of the anatomical structure while the filter element is restrained in the collapsed configuration;

advancing the guidewire through the lumen until the filter element is positioned at a desired location;

removing the restraint on the filter element to expand the filter element to its expanded configuration;

filtering fluid flowing through the lumen into the opening in the cavity of the filter element;

closing the opening to the cavity of the filter element; and

removing the guidewire and filter element from the lumen of the anatomical structure.

41 (Original). The method of claim 40 wherein in the step of providing a guidewire the guidewire comprises a solid material.

42 (Original). The method of claim 40 wherein in the step of providing a guidewire the guidewire comprises metal.

Amendment and Response
Applicants: Rudy Mazzocchi et al.
Serial No.: 10/051,591

Attorney Docket: MVAI001USC4

43 (Original). The method of claim 40 wherein in the step of providing a guidewire the guidewire comprises a tapered portion.

44 (Original). The method of claim 40 wherein in the step of providing a guidewire the filter element is self-expandable.

45 (Currently Amended). A method of filtering emboli from fluid flowing through a lumen defined by the wall of an anatomical structure comprising:

- providing a guidewire including a filter element mounted on a distal portion of the guidewire, the filter element having a distal end and being expandable from a collapsed configuration when the filter element is restrained to an expanded configuration when the filter element is unrestrained, the filter element having a shape in the expanded configuration which defines a cavity having a proximally facing opening, the guidewire extending to at least the distal end of the filter element;

- introducing the guidewire into the lumen of the anatomical structure while the filter element is restrained in the collapsed configuration;

- advancing the guidewire through the lumen until the filter element is positioned at a desired location;

- removing the restraint on the filter element to expand the filter element to its expanded configuration;

- filtering emboli from fluid flowing through the lumen into the opening in the cavity of the filter element;

- collapsing the filter element about the emboli to capture the emboli in the cavity of the filter element; and

- removing the guidewire and filter element from the lumen of the anatomical structure.

Amendment and Response
Applicants: Rudy Mazzocchi et al.
Serial No.: 10/051,591

Attorney Docket: MVA1001USC4

46 (Original). The method of claim 45 wherein the step of collapsing the filter element comprises closing the opening to the cavity of the filter element.

47 (Original). The method of claim 45 wherein in the step of providing a guidewire the guidewire comprises a solid material.

48 (Original). The method of claim 45 wherein in the step of providing a guidewire the guidewire comprises metal.

49 (Original). The method of claim 45 wherein in the step of providing a guidewire the guidewire comprises a tapered portion.

50 (Original). The method of claim 45 wherein in the step of providing a guidewire the filter element is self-expandable.

Claims 51 – 56 (Canceled).